



Newark Board of Education

Roger León, Superintendent

Where Passion Meets Progress

August 9, 2019

New Jersey Department of Education
Dr. Lamont Repollet, Commissioner of Education
PO Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

RE: Emergency State Aid

Dear Dr. Repollet:

The Newark Board of Education is requesting \$36.7 million in emergency aid. Our state aid for FY 19-20 was \$12.7 million less than the \$37.5 million that the district received in FY 18-19. As a result, the district was forced to make \$12.7 million in cuts in order to balance the budget and avoid hundreds of layoffs. The cuts and Charter School shortfall include the following:

<u>Description</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
World Language/Elementary Teachers	17	1,262,522
Supervisors (Athletics, Bilingual, Science, Social Studies, and Visual & Performing Arts)	5	450,000
New Departments	6	544,902
Renovation of Newark Vocational	-	2,000,000
Science Curriculum	-	1,500,000
New Adoptions (Math & Literacy \$0.5M each)	-	1,000,000
Reduction to Purchase Services (Per Deputy Sup)		1,000,000
Reduction in Pupil Trans funding requests	-	500,000
Various Environmental School Repairs	-	3,768,242
Fire Alarm Installation	-	500,000
Hawkins St. Asbestos removal	-	209,912
Charter Schools	-	24,013,590
Total	28	\$36,749,168

These cuts directly impact the district's ability to fully implement the "NPS Clarity 2020" strategic plan. A plan which is designed to develop a rigorous and relevant framework for curriculum and instruction. The basic core requirements cannot be met without these components.

Additionally, we received a projected \$39 million increase in Charter Schools costs. The District budgeted an additional \$15 million for the anticipated increase. Therefore, we need an additional \$24 million in aid to ensure that we can provide payment to the charters as required.

If we do not receive the \$36.7 million, the District's inability to implement its educational programs will directly impact the students' classroom experiences. Also we will not be able to meet our financial obligations to the Charter Schools.

Finally, the Board Resolution will be approved no later than the Public Meeting which will be held on August 27, 2019. We have attached a copy of the resolution that will be submitted to the board. Once the resolution is approved and signed, we will forward a copy and the minutes.

Sincerely,



Roger León
Superintendent

c: Valerie V. Wilson, School Business Administrator
Josephine Garcia, Board of Education President
Asia J. Norton, Board of Education Finance & Equity - Chairperson
Elvis Matos, Budget Director